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Henry Hastings Hall to George Bracher, 17 January 1876

Mandurah

Jany 17 1876

My dear George

At once, on the receipt of your last I wrote to Mr Lazenby and about a fortnight ago I received the enclosed reply. If you do not soon get satisfaction I think you should write a note to the Chairman of the City Council Geo Shenton, Lazenby being in the employ of the Council, it would not do for him to be always dunning. You will no doubt have heard long ere this reaches you of the deaths at Roebourne of poor Robert Hester and Andertons eldest daughter, the former said to be from apoplexy the latter from fever peculiar to the climate, in her 13th year, poor Ander has his share of trouble Shake I hear is not doing well, he made another start at the NW and working on other men's capital is up hill work. What a dark page the mining madness has left behind. You surprise me about Heffernan, I thought he was too wealthy to feel mining losses. When I hear from you or your wife again tell me what has become of W H Taylor I have not heard anything of him for a long time, and old Tullock — is he gone the way of all flesh? Frank is now at Nickol Bay pearling. They have had another fearful hurricane there, 61 lives lost, but probably we have not yet heard the full extent. The Tuckeys are fearing lest their two sons may be amongst the number. Some of the pearling craft foundered some capsized, others were driven on the banks and broke up. I hear that Capt Cadell of Murray fame is amongst the lost. I have not heard whether any damage was done to the buildings on shore. A dreadful murder has been committed at Champion Bay. Kenneth Brown eldest son of the late Thos Brown Resident Magistrate of Fremantle had been round to Queensland and brought back a second wife (Dirksey Wittenoom was his first) It appears they often quarreled, and one morning he fired two shots at her and blew her brains out, I think he gave way to drink a good deal, but was sober at the time. He will very likely get into the Asylum for life. One of his brothers is an MLC and he has one sister married to another MLC, and another married to a barrister, Master of the Bankruptcy Court. I must now conclude, hoping you are all well. Kind love to

Fanny, wife and all of you. We often get papers from you and Aunt I will try to send you a batch by the next following mail

affectionately yours

H H Hall